Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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ATTN PARIS FOR MARK PRATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 8 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. FIJI

PRES CARTER NOMINATES JOHN CONDON AS NEW US AMB TO FIJI, SUCCEEDING AMB SELDEN, WHO RESIGNED (AP, WP; REUTER 2/7).

2. CAMBODIA/VIETNAM

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ACCORDING AP (BANGKOK 2/7), SRV HAS ASKED UN'S "APPROVAL"/"SUPPORT" OF PLAN TO END BORDER WAR W/CAMBODIA. QUOTING "VOICE OF VN,"AGENCY SAID VN WROTE SECY GEN ASKING UN "TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO PUSH FOR EARLY NEGOTS," WHILE FONMIN TRINH SENT SIMILAR LTR TO NON-ALIGNED NATIONS--1ST TIME THESE NATIONS APPROACHED ON ISSUE.

MEANWHILE, CZECH JOURNALIST WHO VISITED VIET SIDE OF BORDER BATTLEGROUND DESCRIBED SCENES OF DESTRUCTION W/3URNED-OUT HOUSES/RAVAGED RICE CROPS (WP 2/7).

2. VIETNAM

ACCORDING NYT'S TELSCH (AT UN), US OFFICIALS TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TALK W/HANOI REPS BEFORE ORDERING VN'S CHIEF DELEGATE LEAVE UN BECAUSE OF ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN ESPIONAGE-BUT WERE REBUFFED. SAYS US INITIATIVES TAKEN BOTH IN PARIS/NY BEFORE AMB THI GIVEN FORMAL NOTICE LEAVE COUNTRY. SAYS US INTENDS MAKE THIS ARGUMENT TO REBUT VIET COMPLAINT THAT AMERICANS DID NOT CONSULT THEM IN ADVANCE OF EXPULSION ORDER. UN CMTE ON HOST COUNTRY RELS MEETS THURS TO GIVE THI OPPORTUNITY SPEAK BEFORE HE LEAVES.

2. JAPAN

AFTER MTG W/PRES 2/7, MANSFIELD TOLD REPORTERS CARTER WILL SEND FUKUDA INVITATION CONFER W/HIM IN US. STATED DATE WILL BE DETERMINED LATER/INDICATED 1 OF MAJOR ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED WILL BE RECENT US/JAPAN TRADE COMMUNIQUE. MANSFIELD SAID US VERY SATISFIED W/AGREEMENT, WHICH HE TERMED MILESTONE IN US-JAPAN RELS (REUTER 2/7).

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EC FON MINS JOINTLY CALLED ON JAPAN TUES TO BUY MORE EUR-MADE GOODS IN ORDER SHRINK 5-BIL-DOL TRADE IMBALANCE. ALSO URGED JAPAN SPEED UP ITS ECONOMY/PROVIDE BIGGER EXPORT MKT/CONTRIBUTE MORE TO INTL AID PROGRAMS (WP).

EC TO SEND W GERMAN WILHELM HAFERKAMP--IN CHARGE EC EXTERNAL RELS--TO JAPAN IN EFFORT SWING TRADE DEAL SIMILAR TO US-JAPAN ACCORD (AP, CHITRIB).

FOUR LEFTIST STUDENTS SURRENDERED 2/7 AFTER CLINGING 40 HRS TO TOP OF TOWER NARITA AIRPORT OPPOSITION GROUPS BUILT TO PREVENT LANDINGS. AFTER 17-HR RUNNING BATTLE, 45 DEMONSTRATORS ARRESTED/24 POLICEMEN INJURED (REUTER NARITA, 2/7).

3. KOREA

DOS' CARTER SAID 2/6 DEPT TOLD ETHICS CMTE COUNSEL JAWORSKI US WILL NOT ASK SK WAIVE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY FOR FORMER AMB KIM DONG JO BECAUSE WOULD SET "DANGEROUS PRECEDENT" HARMFUL TO US FOPOL. STATED SUCH ACTION "WOULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS" FOR PROTECTION US DIPLOMATS/US ABILITY CONDUCT FON RELS ON RECIPROCITY BASIS (WALTE, UPI 2/7).

ARMY STAFF CHIEF GEN ROGERS INDICATED 2/6 PLANNED US TROOP W/DRAWAL MIGHT NOT BE "APPROPRIATE" IF CONGRESS DOESN'T APPROVE 800-MIL-DOL ARMS TRANSFER (CSM).

HANCHO KIM, INDICTED IN KOREAN INFLUENCE-BUYING SCANDAL,

PLEADED INNOCENT TO CHARGES OF TAX EVASION IN BALTO FEDRL COURT 2/7. FURTHER PROCEEDINGS POSTPONED UNTIL COMPLETION KIM'S CRIMINAL TRIAL IN WASHINGTON 2/27 (AP, WP; SUN).

4. AUSTRALIA

AT JOINT CANBERRA NEWS CONF 2/7, US DEP TRADE REP WOLFF/AUSSIE DEP PM ANTHONY WARNED BOTH COUNTRIES MIGHT UNCLASSIFIED

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CONSIDER WALKING OUT OF CURRENT GENEVA TRADE TALKS IF THEY DON'T RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS ON AGRIC EXPORTS. ANTHONY SAID US WOULD LEAD DISCUSSIONS ON GRAIN/WOULD PROBABLY SUPPORT AUSTRALIA'S PROPOSALS ON BEEF/OTHER PRODUCTS AT TALKS (REUTER CANBERRA 2/7).

AUSTRALIAN TREASURER HOWARD SAID LAST WEEKEND GOA DETERMINED AVOID CURRENCY DEVALUATION/WILL CONTINUE BORROW HEAVILY IN FON MONEY MKTS TO BOLSTER AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR IN FACE CONTINUING PRESSURE FOR DEVALUATION (STOVE, JOC SYDNEY).

JOC'S AXELBANK (MOSCOW) CITES AUSTRALIAN SOURCES WHO SAY THERE WILL PROBABLY BE "SUBSTANTIAL" SALE AUSSIE WHEAT TO USSR THIS YR, POSSIBLY TOTALLING NEARLY 1 MIL DOLS.

5. CHINA

RADIO PEKING 2/5 REPORTED TWO BORDER INCIDENTS W/SOVIETS ALONG OUTER MONGOLIAN FRONTIER. IN ONE, PRC SAID TO HAVE CAPTURED SABOTEUR CARRYING EXPLOSIVES/"ATTEMPTING TO CREATE BORDER INCIDENTS" IN KIRIN PROVINCE; SECOND INVOLVED INTERCEPTION OF MOTORIZED RECONNAISSANCE PATROL FROM MONGOLIA IN GOBI DESERT. NO INDICATION WHETHER PATROL CONSISTED OF MONGOLIAN OR SOVIET TROOPS--CHINESE ONLY REFERRED TO IT AS "THE ENEMY." "TASS," MEANWHILE, HAS CALLED REPORTS "SHEER CONCOCTION"/"WISHFUL THINKING" (UPI HK, WP).

SHIPLER (NYT MOSCOW), IN ARTICLE ON SOVIET FON POLICY, OBSERVES INCREASE OF ATTACKS ON PRC IN SOVIET MEDIA. STATES THERE IS NO OBVIOUS REASON FOR ACCELERATION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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MEDIA BLASTS.

IN RESPONSE TO TENG HSIAO-PING'S REMARKS MADE DURING NEPAL VISIT CALLING FOR IMPROVED PRC/INDIA RELS, INDIAN PM DESAI

TELLS CALCUTTA NEWS CONF INDIA LIKEWISE READY HOLD TALKS TO NORMALIZE RELS BETWN TWO COUNTRIES. DESAI DECLARED "INDIA DOES NOT BELIEVE IN WAR" AND THAT ALL PENDING DISPUTES, INCL PRC OCCUPATION PORTION AKSAI CHIN, COULD BE SOLVED THRU NEGOTIATIONS (SUN NEW DELHI).

US TRADE POLICY TOWARD PRC/PRC'S OWN LABOR PRACTICES CAME UNDER SHARP ATTACK 2/7 AT INTL TRADE COMM (ITC) HEARING ON GLOVE IMPORTS. ITC, WHICH DUE DECIDE IN MARCH WHETHER RECOMMEND IMPORT QUOTAS ON PRC WORK GLOVE SHIPMENTS AS REQUESTED BY US INDUSTRIES, WAS TOLD BY FORMER US AMO M BISHOP THAT US JOBS/BUSINESSES "BEING SACRIFICED TO SERVB PURPOSES OF PRC." US LABOR LEADER JACOB SHEINKMAN ALSO SCORED PRC FOR "SLAVE LABOR POLICIES" WHICH HE SAID CAUSE "SERIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT" IN US GLOVE INDUSTRY (JOC). IN TESTIMONY TO TAKE PLACE WEDNESDAY, AMERICAN IMPORTERS ASSOC, REPRESENTING IMPORTERS OF GLOVES FROM CHINA, IS EXPECTED SAY GLOVE IMPORTS POSE NO MAJOR THREAT TO US INDUSTRY BECAUSE OF IMPORT DUTIES/ALSO BECAUSE LARGE DOMESTIC DEMAND W/IN PRC FOR GLOVES WILL PREVENT EXPORTS TO US FROM GROWING (AP SUN).

MORITZ (CSM HK ,/7) REPORTS PRC/EC SIGNED FIVE-YR TRADE AGREEMENT, THUS MOVING PRC ONE STEP CLOSER PROGRAM OF IMPORTING FON TECHNOLOGY FOR BUILDING ITS ECONOMY. CHINESE ACCORDED MFN STATUS. CONCESSIONS WON BY EC INCLUDE SAFE-GUARD CLAUSE CALLING FOR CONSULTATION SHOULD PRC IMPORT CAUSE PROBLEM IN EC MARKETS/PRC COMMITMENT NOT TO LOWER PRICES IN EFFORTS UNDERCUT EC PRODUCTS.

ROC TRADE DEL NOW IN US REPORTED AGREED TO PURCHASE NORTH CAROLINA TABACCO VALUED AT MORE THAN 1,.5 MILLION DOLS. UNCLASSIFIED

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SALE ANNOUNCED BY SEN HELMS (R-NC) WHO ALSO INDICATED GROUNDWORK LAID FOR FUTURE MILLION-DOL SALES OF CROP (JOC).

6. THAILAND

BOARD OF TRADE REPORTS THAIS EXPORTED 3.8 MILLION METRIC TONS TAPIOCA PRODUCTS IN '77 (UNICOM NEWS, JOC 2/7).

7. SINGAPORE

CSM'S SURESH (SINGAPORE) DOES PIECE ON GOS' COMPUTERIZED ENTRY/EXIT PERMIT SYSTEM DESIGNED STEM STEADY FLOW ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.

8. PHILIPPINES

ACCORDING WP'S O'TOOLE, 644-MIL-DOL EXIM LOAN TO FINANCE CONSTRUCTION NUKE POWER PLANT IN PHILS IS 0EING CHALLENGED

BY HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCMTE BECAUSE WILL BE BUILT BY MARCOS RELATIVE HERMINIO DISINI ON SITE SURROUNDED BY 5 VOLCANOES (ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTO MARCOS).

9. GENERAL

ACCORDING UPI (JOC 2/7), PANAM/CHINA AIRLINES/KOREAN AIRLINES WILL PROBABLY BE REFUSED PERMISSION FLY SHORTCUT ROUTE ACROSS VN 0ECAUSE THEIR GOVTS HAVE NO DIPLO RELS W/SRV. MEETING IN VIENTIANE THIS WK, AIRLINES REPS EXPECTED DISCUSS OVERFLIGHT PAYMENTS BY AIRLINES FOR USE THIS SHORTER ROUTE.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

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10. PHILIPPINES

LAT EDIT (2/7) SAYS REALISM/IDEALISM HAVE COLLIDED AGAIN IN CARTER ADMIN--OVER MIL ASSISTANCE TO PHILS, COUNTRY WHICH "FALLS WELL BELOW THE HIGH STANDARDS OF MORALITY" PRES HAS PROCLAIMED AS "FIXTURE OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY." SAYS ADMIN PLANS PROVIDE PHILS W/36.6 MIL DOLS IN ARMS AID/CREDITS FOR FY '79--SAME AMOUNT GOP NOW RECEIVING. OBSERVES THAT BECAUSE OF SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVING 2 US BASES, ADMIN "PROBABLY WAS WISE NOT TO ROCK THE BOAT" OVER HUMAN RTS VIOLATIONS. SAYS THIS IN LINE W/PRUDENT POSITION THAT, DESPITE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RTS, NATL SECURITY PARAMOUNT CONSIDERATION IN US FONPOL. CONCLUDES, STILL, IT WOULD BE NICE IF ADMIN REDUCED AMOUNT MIL AID--IF ONLY BY TOKEN AMOUNT--TO PROD MARCOS INTO RELAXING AUTHORITARIAN GRIP ON COUNTRY W/O ENDANGERING US SECURITY NEEDS.

CHITRIB'S THIMMESCH SAYS HANOI DOES NOTHING BUT "SHOW CONTEMPT" FOR US. CALLS DINH BA THI'S ALLEGED CO-CONSPIRACY "DISGUSTING." FOR PAST SEVERAL YRS, SAYS SRV HAS "THUMBED ITS NOSE AT US," HOLDING 2,500 MIAS AS "HOSTAGES" FOR REPARATIONS HANOI KNOWS IT WILL NOT GET. WONDERS WHY PRES HASN'T DENOUNCED VN FOR ITS "LONG RECORD" HUMAN RTS VIOLATIONS.

CSM'S BROWNING (PARIS) SAYS THI'S EXPULSION LIKELY POSE
DIFFICULT NEW PROBLEM FOR "ALREADY TROUBLED TALKS" ON
NORMALIZING RELS. FEELS MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM IS
EMBARRASSMENT AFFAIR CAUSING VN, WHICH IS EXPECTED BE
AGGRAVATED BY TRIAL LIKELY BRING OUT CHARGES OF BLACKMAIL/
HUMAN RTS VIOLATIONS W/IN VN. THINKS IT CURIOUS VIETS
ALLOWED HIGH OFFICIAL BECOME SO INVOLVED IN ESPIONAGE;
SAYS PERHAPS IT'S BECAUSE VIET UN DEL RELATIVELY SMALL/
INEXPERIENCED; THI HIMSELF VERY LIKELY ALREADY FAMILIAR
W/CLANDESTINE CONTACTS BASED ON PREVIOUS JOB.

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12. CHINA

13. KOREA

FRASER (CSM PEKING ,/7) DOES FEATURE ON REOPENING OF PEKIN LIBRARY TO FOREIGNERS FOR 1ST TIME SINCE CR.

MATHEWS (LAT HK) DOES ITEM ON HOW RAISING/EATING PIGS CAN BE POL FOOTBALL IN CHINA. NOTES "PD" RECENTLY DISCLOSED THAT IN ADDITION TO OTHER EXCESSES, GANG OF FOUR HAD BEEN OVERLY DOCTRINAIRE ON QUESTION OF PEASANTS RAISING PIGS FOR PERSONAL CONSUMPTION. HUA KUO-FENG, SHE REPORTS, SEEMS DETERMINED SWELL PIG POPULATION BOOM AND HENCE HAS LIFTED IDEOLOGICAL RESTRICTIONS THAT DISCOURAGE PEASANTS REARING THEM ON OWN TIME.

UPON RETURN FROM TWO-WK PRC VISIT, SEN KENNEDY REPORTED TO SAY THAT MOST SERIOUS FONPOL CONCERN OF CHINA IS SOVIET EXPANSIONISM. BECAUSE OF THIS, KENNEDY SAYS, PRC SHARES FOLLOWING GOALS W/US: STRONG AMERICAN DEFENSE/UNIFIED, STRONG W EUROPE/ECONOMICALLY VIABLE JAPAN/STRONG NATO. SAID CHINESE WOULD PREFER US MOVE TOWARD, CONFRONTATION AND COMPETITION." ARTICLE DOES NOT SPECIFY WHERE KENNEDY MADE REMARKS (KENRICK CSM).

SUN EDIT SAYS JAWORSKI'S COMMENTS RE WRONGDOING IN CONGRES CANNOT BE ALLOWED REMAIN W/O "FULL, FAIR AND PROMPT AIRING OF EVIDENCE/DEFENSES AGAINST IT. STATES PROBE "INCUBATING FAR TOO LONG/TIME LET PUBLIC IN ON "KOREAGATE" IN OPEN FORUMS.

CSM EDIT FEELS PRES MUST GIVE JAWORSKI FULL COOPERATION FROM DOS IN KOREA SCANDAL PROBE, OR CARTER MAY FACE CHARGES OF COVERUP. URGES WH BEND EFFORTS TOWARD RESOLVING JAWORSKI-DOS DISPUTE OVER REQUESTING SK WAIVE KIM DONG JO'S DIPLO IMMUNITY. BELIEVES CARTER CAN BOLSTER "HIS RECENTLY TAINTED IMAGE"--DUE MARSTON AFFAIR--UNCLASSIFIED

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BY GIVING JAWORSKI HELP HE NEEDS.

14. GENERAL

WP EDIT ON ADMIN'S 100 "HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT CARDS" SAYS ADMIN STUDIES SHOW THAT COUNTRIES REGARDED AS IMPORTANT FOR STRATEGIC/ECON/POL REASONS, INCL SK/PHILS. "MILDLY CRITICIZED BUT NOT OFFICIALLY PENALIZED" FOR HUMAN RTS SHORTFALLS, WHILE OTHERS BOTH CRITICIZED/PENALIZED. DEPLORES AS UNACCEPTABLE THIS "DOUBLE STANDARD, OR A TRIPL;, OR QUADRUPLE STANDARD." VANCE

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